

Remarks

Claims 1-20 were presented for prosecution. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Ramaswamy et al., US 6,553,542 ("Ramaswamy"). Claims 2, 9 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has herein amended claims 1, 8 and 15, and canceled claims 2, 9 and 16. No new matter is believed added. These amendments are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the objections and rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8 and 15 are amended by incorporating the limitation of their respective dependent claims 2, 9 and 16, and the original claims 2, 9 and 16 are hereby canceled. Accordingly, the currently amended claims 1, 8 and 15 and the claims depending therefrom are believed allowable as noted by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 6/21/05



Spencer K. Warnick  
Reg. No. 40,398

Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC  
Three E-Comm Square  
Albany, NY 12207  
(518) 449-0044 - Telephone  
(518) 449-0047 - Facsimile